DARK HORSE COMICS
DRAGON AGE
1
$0.99

BIOWARE

FROM THE LEAD WRITER OF THE DRAGON AGE GAMES

DRAGON AGE™

THE SILENT GROVE

DAVID GAIDER | ALEXANDER FREED | CHAD HARDIN

DRAGON AGE™

THE SILENT GROVE

Part 1 of 6

Almost a decade ago, the terror of the Fifth Blight swept the nation of Ferelden. Civil war soon followed, as King Cailan died in battle against the monstrous darkspawn, and a usurper took his place.

Only the actions of a few heroes—King Cailan's brother Alistair among them—prevented utter devastation. Since then, the new King Alistair has ruled with a steady hand and seen to his homeland's reconstruction.

But Ferelden is not the world, and its troubles thread through distant lands. Today, a ship arrives in a northern port, and its passengers would unearth a secret that could change everything . . .

Story	Script	Art
DAVID GAIDER	ALEXANDER FREED	CHAD HARDIN
Colors	**Lettering**	**Cover Art**
MICHAEL ATIYEH	MICHAEL HEISLER	ANTHONY PALUMBO

Editor	Assistant Editor	Designer	Publisher
DAVE MARSHALL	BRENDAN WRIGHT	KAT LARSON	MIKE RICHARDSON

Special thanks to BioWare, including:
Matthew Goldman, Art Director • Mike Laidlaw, Lead Designer • Aaryn Flynn, Studio GM,
BioWare Edmonton • Ray Muzyka and Greg Zeschuk, BioWare Co-Founders

Facebook.com/DarkHorseComics Twitter.com/DarkHorseComics

Talk about this issue online at: Boards.DarkHorse.com

Advertising Sales: (503) 905-2370 | Comic Shop Locator Service: (888) 266-4226 | DarkHorse.com | DragonAge.com

DRAGON AGE: THE SILENT GROVE # 1, February 2012. Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc., 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222.

Dragon Age © 2012 EA International (Studio and Publishing) Ltd. Dragon Age, Dragon Age logo, BioWare and BioWare logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of EA International (Studio and Publishing) Ltd. in the U.S. and/or other countries. All Rights Reserved. EA and EA logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Electronic Arts Inc. in the U.S. and/or other countries. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

ANTIVA CITY, ON THE COAST OF RIALTO BAY. THE THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE DRAGON AGE.
WHERE THEY SAY EVERY MAN IS A POET OR A MERCHANT PRINCE, AND TREACHERY IS THE COIN OF THE REALM.
CHAPTER 1
I'M GUESSING "POET" IS ANTIVAN FOR "ASSASSIN."
ALL I KNOW IS THAT EVERY STREET CORNER SMELLS LIKE SEAWATER MIXED WITH WINE AND SPICE --
-- OR MOLD MIXED WITH ROTTING FISH.
HEH. SO SHE PULLS OUT A DAGGER, AND I PULL OUT MINE...
I SHOULDN'T BE HERE, OF COURSE.
ENOUGH.
YOU! GIVE A NAME OR START RUNNING.

MY NAME IS ALISTAIR THEIRIN, AND I'M *KING* OF FERELDEN.
SON OF MARIC THE SAVIOR?
YOU'RE... REALLY NOT CONVINCED, ARE YOU?
CONVINCE THE DEAD.
I SHOULDN'T BE HERE *ALONE*...

GKK
LET THE CROWS TAKE YOU.
AH!
...AND I CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE WITH *HIM*.
THREE NIGHTS IN ANTIVA, AND ALREADY THE SHOOTING STARTS.
IF ONLY I COULD BE SURPRISED.

CROWS WILL GUT THEM.
CROWS WILL SCATTER THEIR GUTS ON THE STREET --
WHAT AN ADORABLE IMAGINATION.
I KNEW AN ENTERTAINER WHO PERFORMED WITH DOG INTESTINES -- TERRIBLE MESS AT THE BAZAAR, THOUGH HE LOVED THE WORK.
OR WITH *HER*.
YET HERE WE ARE.

SHE CALLS HERSELF ISABELA. PIRATE. THIEF. SHARPEST BLADE IN RIVAIN, AND AN OLD... ACQUAINTANCE, OF SORTS.
SHE KNOWS ANTIVA -- AT LEAST THE PARTS I NEED TO VISIT.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL HIM.
YOU KILLED HIM -- THE MOMENT YOU GAVE HIM YOUR NAME.
WHO DOES THAT?
CUT HIM SOME SLACK, RIVAINI.
MOST KINGS CAN'T SPEAK A WORD WITHOUT A SCRIPT FROM THEIR ADVISORS.
THE DWARF IS VARRIC TETHRAS -- A MERCHANT WHO ACTS LIKE A BARKEEP OR A SPYMASTER, DEPENDING ON THE HOUR.
ISABELA'S TRAVELING COMPANION...AND NOW MINE, APPARENTLY.
FINE, FINE.
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH --
-- BEFORE THE CROWS FIND US RAIDING THEIR ARCHIVE, PLEASE?
YOU THINK THAT WAS HIS COMMANDING VOICE?
I'M SURE IT WORKS IF YOU'RE FROM FERELDEN.

AS FOR ME? I'M A KING WHO SHOULDN'T BE.
AND I'VE MISSED WALKING INTO DEATH WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE AT MY SIDE.
HAVE YOU EVER DEALT WITH THE CROWS BEFORE, OH KING?
SORT OF.
THEN YOU UNDERSTAND THEY'RE NOT MERELY ASSASSINS --
(VERY TALENTED ASSASSINS, MIND YOU.)
-- BUT THE INSIDIOUS LITTLE VOICE IN EVERY ANTIVAN NOBLEMAN'S EAR?
THAT'S THE RUMOR.
AND WHEN YOUR SOURCE TOLD YOU THAT THEIR CONTRACTS, THEIR BLACKMAIL FILES, THEIR SECRET HISTORIES, AND THEIR RECIPES WERE ALL HERE --
-- YOUR FIRST THOUGHT WAS, "I SHOULD KICK IN THE FRONT DOOR"?
IS THAT A CRITICISM?
NOT AT ALL. IN FACT, I'M IMPRESSED BY --
-- STOP!
WHAT?

NOT THE TIME FOR THIS, VARRIC --
LET HIM WORK.
HUH.
THP THP
TOOTH OF THE SERPENT.
THAT WASN'T SO --
KEEP WATCHING.
IT'S CALLED A DRAGON'S CRECHE -- A BUILDING DESIGNED TO KILL YOU.
THEY TAKE DECADES TO CONSTRUCT.
GOOD VANITY PROJECTS FOR THE OLD DWARVEN FAMILIES... CROWS, TOO, APPARENTLY.

I COULD'VE DONE THAT.
FALLING MOUNTAIN.
POISON WIND.
TRIPWIRE MECHANISM.
NOT WITHOUT KEEN DWARVEN EYES.
YOU DO WHATEVER YOU CAME TO DO.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.
FIRE FOUNTAIN.
REALLY? WITH ALL THIS PAPER?
WHEEL OF LIQUID PAIN.
INTERESTING VARIATION ON THE STORM AGE DESIGN...
THIEF'S FOLLY.
A LITTLE OBVIOUS, TOO.

HALT!
FOUND ALL THE TRAPS BUT MISSED THE ALARM. HMPH.
KEEN DWARVEN EYES, INDEED.
HELLO, CLAUDIO.
WELL-- ISABELA.
IF YOU'RE THIS DESPERATE FOR COIN ALREADY, I'M SURE I CAN FIND YOU AN ALLEY SOMEWHERE.
WAIT.
ARE YOU CLAUDIO VALIST??

THEN YOU'RE KING ALISTAIR?
I HAD TO KNOW IT WAS REAL.
I'LL THANK THE MAKER BEFORE BEDTIME.
YOU'RE FORTUNATE I WAS THE ONE WHO RESPONDED TO THE ALARM.
MALDICIÓN! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO COME PERSONALLY.
YOU ARE CONVINCED NOW, THEN?
AND VELABANCHEL--
YES.
YES.
I SEE--
--YOU DON'T TRUST THEM.
HOW WISE, YOUR MAJESTY.
I THINK HE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU.
QUIET.
GO. YOU HAVE MAGNIFICENTLY ESCAPED OUR PURSUIT.
KNOW THAT I CANNOT AID YOU FURTHER.

THE PERFUMED SPRING.
ISABELA'S CHOICE AS A PLACE TO REGROUP -- NOT MINE.
PRINCE CLAUDIO VAUIST! WAS MY HUSBAND'S BUSINESS PARTNER.
THE HUSBAND YOU KILLED?
THE HUSBAND I HAD KILLED, THANK YOU.
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS "PRINCE AMONG CROWS," OH KING?
ZEVRAN PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH CLAUDIO, AND CLAUDIO'S INFORMATION BROUGHT ME HERE.
ZEVRAN THE ASSASSIN, HM?
ZEVRAN KNOWS A LOT OF PEOPLE.
LIKE YOU KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE?
LISTEN TO ME, ALISTAIR.
YOU MUSTN'T BELIEVE A WORD THE PESTILENT BASTARD SAYS.
WHATEVER HE'S DONE FOR YOU --

I KNOW.
LOOK. NOBODY UNDERSTANDS SCOPING UP TO SNAKES BETTER THAN I DO.
BUT THAT'S A JOB BEST HANDLED BY SOMEONE WHO CAN AFFORD BECOMING THE BLACK SHEEP OF THE FAMILY.
NOT THE MAN WITH A REPUTATION -- AND A CROWN -- TO PROTECT.
MY REPUTATION IS THE LEAST OF MY CONCERNS NOW, VARRIC.
AND WITH RESPECT, I DON'T KNOW YOU OR YOUR FAMILY.
WELL, I TRIED.
WHAT ABOUT THIS "VELABANCHEL," THEN? CLAUDIO MENTIONED --
IT'S A PRISON RUN BY THE CROWS.
MAKES THE ARCHIVE SEEM AS WELCOMING AS A BROTHEL.
PLANNING A VISIT?
SHOULD WE BAKE A CAKE WITH A FILE HIDDEN INSIDE?
THAT NEVER WORKS.
I'M PLANNING TO BREAK IN, TONIGHT.
WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
TO BE CONTINUED...

DRAGON AGE™ II

FLEMETH STATUE

Master sculptor Joe Menna has taken BioWare's game files and painstakingly created a beautiful, detailed facsimile of the Flemeth Dragon that is 4.5" tall and 12" wide. Sure to impress any *Dragon Age* fan!

FIND THIS AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP OR TAP HERE TO PURCHASE AT TFAW.COM

PURCHASE NOW

DARK HORSE DIGITAL

BIOWARE

NEW DRAGON AGE SERIES

COMING SUMMER 2012!

Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. © 2012 EA International Ltd. Dragon Age, Dragon Age logo, BioWare and BioWare logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of EA International Ltd. in the U.S. and/or other countries.